

MTAC Minutes

Department of Medical Assistance Services

Wednesday, December 15, 2005

Chair: Bryan Tomlinson, Director, DMAS Div. of Health Care Services
Staff: Eileen Jackson, DMAS Transportation Field Monitor
Bob Knox, DMAS Transportation Manager
Bill Zieser, DMAS Transportation Contract Monitor

Members Attending:

Dennis Brown, Fairfax CSB for VACSB
Sid Del Cardayre, Van Go, Inc.
Sharon Davis, Community Medical Transport (*via conference call*)
Mark Edquid, Parham Health Care and Rehab
Jennifer Fidura, VA Network of Private Providers
Hobart Harvey, Virginia Health Care Association
Eddie Jones, Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens (*via conference call*)
Elizabeth Kaeser, Loudoun Long Term Care Center (*via conference call*)
Tammy Loney, Friends Medical Transport
Buddy Scherer, GRTC Transit System
Freda Smith, LogistiCare, Director of VA Operations
Catherine Tyler-Northan, Peninsula Center for Independent Living (*via conference call*)
Mike Wampler, Mountain Empire Older Citizens (*via conference call*)
Robbie Werth, Diamond Transportation

Members Absent:

Marge Sidebottom, UVA Health System
Jacqueline Taylor, James E. Fleming Taxi Service
Jadonna Tirado, Riverside Dialysis Facility

Visitors:

LogistiCare: Greg Birge, David Clark, Mavis Cowan, Mary Eaglesfield, Greg Forgey, Cindy Franklin, Sue Graham
Providers and others: Ron Bellou, Arthur Cross, Ken Horton, Cleveland Mabry, Kimberlee MacMatthews,

Introductions of Members and Visitors

Bryan Tomlinson, Division Director of Health Care Services, called the Medicaid Transportation Advisory Committee (MTAC) to order at 1:12 p.m. Members and visitors introduced themselves.

Discussion: Use of Transportation Attendants

Under federal regulations (45CRR 440.170) “transportation expenses” are defined as follows:

(3) “*Travel expenses*” include—

- (i) *The cost of transportation for the recipient by ambulance, taxicab, common carrier, or other appropriate means;*
- (ii) *The cost of meals and lodging en route to and from medical care, and while receiving medical care; and*
- (iii) *The cost of an attendant to accompany the recipient, if necessary, and the cost of the attendant’s transportation, meals, lodging, and, if the attendant is not a member of the recipient’s family, salary.*

LogistiCare, which is responsible for the cost of attendants, has been developing an internal policy in order to implement the contract requirements for the use of attendants, particularly with standing orders. The Colonial CSB and other members of VACSB have contributed several useful ideas.

MTAC discussed methods for assessing an individual’s need for an attendant and grouping trips to reduce the number of attendants needed. Periodic re-assessment would be needed for some passengers. Residential facilities may be a source of attendants who are already familiar with the passengers. Older workers in the Title V program are another possible source. Northern Virginia Training Center and other Training Centers were mentioned as a resource for training attendants.

Members were asked to send other comments and ideas to Mavis Cowan at LogistiCare by December 16.

Discussion: Future Medical Transportation Topics

DMAS initiated a discussion of the future role of MTAC as a workgroup that could focus on specific issues that improve the overall medical transportation system. The recipients, the broker, transportation providers and other service providers are all important components of the system and have diverse needs. DMAS believes MTAC can provide leadership by identifying issues, defining them, analyzing them and making recommendations for improvements that will benefit all four of the component groups.

In the discussion that followed, some initial suggestions were a satisfaction survey of service providers and transportation providers, Web-based business functions, improving safety and a public transportation pilot that DMAS is developing with LogistiCare and GRTC. Members also mentioned broad-based issues such as securing scooters en route, child safety seats, best practices in other states and the

different expectations that exist in the system. The discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Information: Contract implementation, Freda Smith

LogistiCare gave an update on implementing the new contract, which began October 1 2005. The presentation and other handouts are attached.

Information: DMAS Updates

A representative from Doral presented information on the new DMAS Dental Program, which began July 1 2005. Doral is the broker for the program and Sandy Brown is the Dental Manager for DMAS. Over 125 new dental providers have been enrolled this year.

Under the new Medicare Part D, transportation for QMB Extended recipients will be provided pharmacies to pick up prescription drugs if they have no other means of transportation.

E-Medicaid benefits for recipients displaced by Hurricane Katrina will end by March 31. Several hundred trips have been provided since September.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: April 19 2006